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CIA 1-01 Helms

Russell, Richard

CIA 2-04.2 general

CIA Cuts Back on Grants

Student Fund Hit As Waste

RFK BACKS CIA—

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (AP) — Director Richard Helms of the Central Intelligence Agency told senators in secret session today that the agency is withdrawing financial support from some private organizations it has subsidized.

That word came from Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate panel which supervises the CIA.

Russell would not name individual organizations, but he did say it would be a mistake and a waste of money to continue any investment in the National Student Assn.

"I prefer not to go into a detailed list of all the organizations that are involved," Russell told newsmen after three-hour session with Helms.

BARS QUESTIONS

Helms himself walked briskly from the meeting and brushed aside questions.

Russell said that in view of the publicity swirling around the CIA because of revelations that it subsidized the student association, "it might be well for the CIA to sever financial connections with a great number of organizations."

Asked whether Helms had said that the CIA would withdraw financial support from some private organizations which have overseas operations, Russell said simply, "Yes."

Then he stopped, saying he did not want to quote Helms.

"In my opinion, he support of some of these agencies will be withdrawn, because it would be a waste to continue," the Senator said.

Helms had gone before the meeting backed by a prediction from Senate Democratic lead-



Associated Press Wirephoto

RICHARD HELMS

Director of the CIA

er Mike Mansfield that the CIA will survive its current "period of discomfiture" with a strengthened intelligence arm.

Russell defended the CIA investment in the National Student Assn.

"So far as the talk that there has been anything done that impinges on academic freedom or subverts youth, that's just a lot of hogwash," he said.

Russell said the CIA has not actually sent members of private organizations abroad, but has in some cases contributed to their expenses.

"They've had contacts with almost every facet of American life that has any connection outside the United States," he said.

As Helms hurried to an elevator, he was asked for comment on the statement of Secretary of Welfare John W. Gardner that it was a mistake for the CIA to get involved with the field of education.

"I have no opinion," the CIA director said.

HIGHER DIVIDEND

Russell said in his view, the intelligence agency has not been involved in education.

He said the program of helping young Americans travel to wormid youth meetings thwarted a Communist effort to take over those international forums.

"I think it was a good program," Russell said. "It probably paid a higher dividend to stop Communist propaganda than almost any other program."

Russell said there are groups "very anxious to continue their work" in assisting the American intelligence community.